



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: May 11, 2006

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

Chair Harvey Klein (GSL) called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Greg Tomkovich (Accutest) stated the S&HW methanol preserved volatile PTs (ERA Catalog #870) do not meet the NELAC low-level standards. A second PT (ERA Catalog #623) was sent which does meet the low-level standard. Sharon O'Toole stated the direction from NJDEP-OQA was to ignore the 1st PT (#870).

PT program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) reported via Deb Waller (NJDEP-OQA) that S&HW PT samples were shipped. For all labs who have paid, WW PTs will be shipped on June 12. An order confirmation letter for WW PTs will be sent on or about June 1st. The make-up DW samples will be shipped July 10th to all labs that pay for the study. Any lab that fails the second DW study will be subject to a 6 month suspension. Any NELAC lab which desires to be invoiced for PT studies every 6 months **must** send written confirmation of such to OQA. Also for NELAC labs, please be aware that if you fail any PTs in a study, the lab will receive a notice of intent to suspend for anything the lab fails and a second invoice for the full set. OQA must send the notice of intent to suspend in case the lab does not pass 2 out of 3 and needs to be suspended. As long as the lab maintains 2 out of 3 passed PTs all is fine.

Laura Vancho (NJ American Water) asked about the clarification for the certification listings noted on each laboratory's annual certified parameter list (ACPL) for the fecal or E.coli testing on original total coliform growth in support of the requirements for the Total Coliform rule and PWTA testing. Debra Waller (NJDEP-OQA) responded by detailing the reasons for the request for clarification in the FY07 renewal application package. Since all labs have to concurrently qualify for both a total coliform method and a method for the subsequent required testing of the total coliform positive original growth for E.coli or fecal coliform, the approved methods must be listed on the lab's ACPL. Not all labs have selected (as instructed) their choices of approved methods for the fecal coliform or E.coli portion of the testing requirements. Labs cannot arbitrarily change the method options for this type of testing unless they have received certification for those methods. The database must be updated to include all of the approved options that a lab is certified to use.

Ms. Waller continued that at the same time, due to an issue with the development of the PWTA and SDWS data systems for drinking water, the parameter code for fecal coliform (SDW01.07000, earlier removed by OQA to prevent labs from testing an independent original water sample for fecal coliform instead of testing the total coliform positive original growth)

had to be reinserted. The old parameter code could not simply be put back into the database and so a new code (SDW01.07010, total coliform positive into EC medium) was created. Anyone that already had the method 9221E in relation to total coliform testing by either membrane filter (SM9222B) or MPN/MTF (SM 9221B) listed on their ACPL should also now have the new code listed as well.

Ms. Waller stated for E.coli testing in wastewater there are two methods offered for certification. Those include WPP01.16000 (E.coli by EPA 1103.1, mTEC) and WPP01.16100 (E.coli by EPA 1603, modified mTEC). Labs were cautioned to note that these methods do not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations as approved methods for wastewater currently. Clients may be requesting this type of testing on the final effluent discharges. Labs may do the testing but the results must be qualified not for regulatory compliance reporting as the permits still require fecal coliform bacteria.

NELAC/INELA Update: Harvey Klein (GSL) stated NAVLAP would no longer be a PT accrediting agency. A2LA will be the only PTOB. Greg Tomkovich stated there will be an INELA meeting August 14-18 to vote on the interim draft standards for finalization. Courses are scheduled before and after the meeting.

NJQL's: John Shevlin (NJDEP/BSDW) stated a NJQL pilot study for data upload has a target implementation date of July 2006.

Bioassay: No report.

Sludge (Biosolids): Tony Pilawski (NJDEP-BPR) reported the final readoption of the SQAR rule is scheduled for the New Jersey Register on June 5th. TCDD is no longer required on the Priority Pollutant scan. The BNA library search is ok for TCDD, reported as an M code. Until monitoring reports are revised to delete the parameter, use "Code=M". A study of 35 samples throughout the state for dioxins and PCB congeners only showed TCDD at very low PPT concentrations (well below the 300 PPT TEQ threshold). The DEP reserves the right to request TCDD on any permit.

Communications and OQA Website: Harvey Klein reported the last update on the webpage is January 2006. He requested ELAC meeting minutes and the NJQL subcommittee report be updated on the webpage.

Old Business

PWTA Update: John Shevlin (NJDEP/BSDW) stated the PWTA new database implementation date has been postponed to June 1st due to a bug in the system and low registration by PWTA labs. Currently there are 35 PWTA labs with 13 labs providing 75% of the data. 7 of the 13 labs are fully registered. The goal is to have all of the PWTA labs registered by June 1, 2006, however, the implementation of the new database will occur as long as the labs that electronically submit the majority PWTA data are fully registered before June 1st. Registration can be done on-line at www.njdeponline.com. During account set-up an ID and Password will be created. The DEP will email a confirmation of registration. Additionally, two forms, Form E2-LAB-001:E2 Laboratory Registration Form and Form E2-ESA-001:Electronic Signature Agreement, need to be complete by PWTA Labs in addition to

the on-line registration process, and submitted for approval to Mr. Mike DiBalsi in the DEP's Office of Quality Assurance. June 1st is a hard deadline due to a looming \$75,000 licensing fee for the current Equis database system utilized by the PWTA Program. Any questions regarding the registration process for the new PWTA database system should be directed to either John Shevlin or Rich Gunoskey of the PWTA Program at 609-292-5550.

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: John Shevlin (NJDEP/BSDW) stated that the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water will implement the new E-2/SDWIS database system on a voluntary basis to all certified drinking water laboratories shortly after the PWTA system is implemented on June 1, 2006. The exact date for this implementation is still to be determined.

As a correction to the May minutes, paper forms may be eliminated in the future for SDWA reports.

Linda Bonnette (NJDEP/BSDW) requested that all water systems make certain the rad lab utilized is certified for all the rad parameters submitted. There have been recent issues with the 48 hour holding time for Gross alpha scans and recounts for method 900. Questions regarding certification and method compliance may be sent to NJDEP-OQA. Linda Vancho (NJ American Water) asked if repeat sampling will be required if the lab only reports the 1st run. Linda Bonnette replied that both runs should be reported as per the method even if the 2nd run is beyond the holding time.

Harvey Klien (GSL) asked about the flow of SDWA data from the lab to the DEP. "Does the water system have the opportunity to review and approve?" John Shevlin (NJDEP/BSDW) stated that he believed if the water system has administrative rights that they could approve the data before it was uploaded to the NJDEP. *(However, after further investigation it was discovered that a public water system currently cannot review their drinking water data on-line before it is uploaded to the NJDEP. The NJDEP anticipates eventually enhancing the new E-2 data system to allow drinking water data from the labs to be reviewed on-line in a holding area and then approved by the lab prior to being uploaded to the system-submitted via email by John Shevlin).* John also stated the DEP can physically remove rejected data from the system or reject with a comment. Harvey asked if administrative rights could be parameter specific. Karen Fell (NJDEP/BSDW) stated the Department would investigate. There was further general discussion regarding whether a Non-Community public water system must have the lab complete the forms by regulation. Karen Fell stated the department would investigate. Harvey asked what reports the client must keep on file (signed lab report or E2 form)? Phil Royer of the NJDEP will have an upcoming training session for public water systems and the database.

Brian Wood (APL) asked if there would be separate registration for PWTA and SDWA. John Shevlin (NJDEP/BSDW) said yes but with the same Password and User ID.

Site Remediation/NJ Groundwater Quality Standards: Gary Czock (NJDEP-SRWM) distributed a draft FAQ which will be posted with the GWQS. He requested that labs review and email comments. The GWQS list standards for 190 compounds. Per the Interim Generic Table 2 all other synthetic organic chemicals default to 5 PPB for carcinogens and 100 PPB for non-carcinogens. TICs are managed via the generic standards. New standards for compounds not listed in the GWQS based upon updated toxicity studies will be posted as

interim standards. For compounds listed in the GWQS, new standards based upon updated toxicity studies will be revised via administrative action.

Brian Wood (APL) asked what method will replace 418.1 for TPH. Gary Czock reporting for Greg Toffoli (NJDEP-ODQ) stated it would most likely be the OQA-025 GC/FID method. Tom Cady (HC-V) asked if the regulatory threshold will change. Mary Anne Kuserk (NJDEP-SRWMP) stated it is under review. Tom Cady asked if the programs would require OQA-025 and reject 418.1.

New Business: None.

Lab Certification Fee Proposal: Deb Waller (NJDEP-OQA) stated the readoption of 7:18 is proposed without changes.

Future projects for ELAC will include a cooperative review for a full revision of the NJAC 7:18 regulations. The draft will be evaluated by ELAC chapter by chapter. This process is a repeat of the approach that OQA and ELAC took with the approval of the July 1, 1996 regulations.

There were not any other new issues. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:30 AM on June 8, 2006 – 5th Floor Conference Room.

Note: All visitors must show one form of identification with a photo, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at a DEP building. This will be performed at all DEP main lobbies in the Trenton complex (401, 501, 440 and 428).

All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification.